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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

August 4, 2006

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Mr. Dale Hall  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Hall:

I am writing to request that you immediately fill the vacant position at Sullys Hill National Game Preserve near Devils Lake, North Dakota.

The 1,600 acre preserve is a national treasure and an important educational and recreational site. Last year, 60,000 people from 44 States, 4 Canadian Provinces and 9 foreign countries visited the preserve. Sullys Hill also serves as a living classroom to students in the region. During the 2004-2005 school year alone, more than 5,000 students from 30 schools in the region attended educational programs at the preserve.

However, I have learned from local groups and constituents that the doors to Sullys Hill will close, except for the summer months, due to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plan to keep the Sullys Hill position vacant. As a result, thousands of visitors and students will be turned away. This is a major blow to the visitors and the region that has used Sullys Hill as the centerpiece for its thriving ecotourism industry.

I understand the difficulty you face as a result of budget cuts proposed by the Administration. However, both the Senate and House have added additional funds above the President's request in the fiscal year 2007 Interior Appropriations bill for operations and maintenance of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These extra funds should provide you with sufficient resources to maintain a permanent position at Sullys Hill. As Ranking Member of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I will work to retain these extra funds in the final bill to be signed by the President. In the meantime, I ask that you find the resources within your existing budget to fill the position immediately.

Thank you for your quick attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan  
U.S. Senator

Cc: Mitch King, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region Six  
Cc: Geoff Haskett, Acting Director, National Wildlife Refuge System